



Linseed crops are turning quickly, meaning desiccation is near. For most growers the Linseed will be harvested straight after their Wheat. We are expecting the early crops to be harvested in the third week of August.

This bulletin is for commercial crops only. A separate bulletin will be issued for seed crops.

Desiccation

Timely and efficient desiccation is vital for early and easy harvesting.

We strongly recommend that all growers desiccate their crops. Desiccation gives even ripening, kills any green material, eases harvesting and helps to ensure that the crop is cut at the earliest opportunity.

Desiccation is important even if you are growing “**EasyCut**” linseed varieties (Atless, Duchess, Comtess or Marquise). Although these have much lower fibre content in the stem, thorough and efficient desiccation is still necessary.

There are 2 products to choose from, those based on Diquat and those based on Glyphosate.

Diquat

The most reliable for an easy harvest is Diquat because it:

- Is quickest acting
- Totally kills the crop before harvest (so cutting is easy)
- Gives longest combing day
- Minimises admixture and drying requirements.

We recommend the use of Diquat for most situations. Use as Follows:

- Base the timing of application on Linseed colour, which should be light brown/khaki coloured.
- The capsules will tend to be darker brown.
- For crops with variable maturity, apply when the latest 50% of the crop has reached the desiccation timing.

Product	Rate	Water Volume	Spray Quality
Diquat + Activator 90	3.0lt/ha + 0.4lt/ha*	400lt/ha	Medium

*use Activator 90 at 0.1% of spray volume.

- Always spray in the evening.
- Never spray in hot sunny conditions.
- Observe correct spray quality.
- Target the stem, not the crop canopy.
- Harvest from 7 days after spraying.



Figure 1: desiccation timing for linseed. The centre is the optimum for diquat application.

Desiccation of yellow seeded crops (e.g. Scorpion or NuLin 50)

For the desiccation of yellow seeded varieties with Diquat, the chart above used for brown linseed is obviously not applicable! The cue for desiccation is very similar; the capsules will predominantly be dark brown, with the seed having a glossy hue and easily separated from the boll. The application, timing and interval between spraying and harvest is the same as for brown seeded varieties.

Glyphosate

Glyphosate based products can be effective, but timing is often tricky to assess, especially in crops where maturity is uneven.

Application made too early, while seed moisture is still high, can result in shrivelled grains. If applied too later of in dry conditions, effective desiccation will not be achieved.

Glyphosate would be the product of choice for crops with severe grassweed infestation, **but should not be used on seed crops.**

- The timing of application is based mainly on seed colour of the Linseed and the overall look of the crop.
- Seeds will be full sized, plump and ivory (i.e. mid way between white and light brown) - seeds change colour from green, to white, to light brown as the plant matures. Pods are likely to be yellowy-lime green in colour.
- The lower leaves will fall off and the stem will still be green (figure 1: plant on the right).
- If the stem is yellow with no leaves then there will be no effect from glyphosate. However, if perennial weeds need controlling then the application would still be worthwhile from a rotational point of view—i.e. starting to clean.

Our experience shows that the newer formulations (e.g. Roundup Ace/Roundup Energy) perform significantly better than traditional generic glyphosate.

- Harvest from 10 days after spraying.
- Treated straw not to be used for horticultural mulch,
- Target the stem, not the crop canopy.
- Observe spray quality.

When to Harvest

- Typically, crops should be ready for harvest 5 – 10 days after the application of Diquat or 10—14 days after the application of Glyphosate:
 - The top half of the stem will be dead, although the lower half is still likely to be yellowy/green.
 - Capsules will be 'parchment' colour.
 - Seeds will be dark brown and will easily rub out from the capsules.
 - Moisture content of the seed will be 8.5– 12%.
- When the Linseed stem is at the stage shown in the picture, the fibres (which are arranged in bundles on the outside of the stem) are tightly 'glued' to the inner woody core, making the straw easy to cut.



Linseed stem with fibre peeled back, exposing the inner woody core

- As the stem ages, this 'glue' gradually breaks down – a natural process known as retting. This allows the fibres to separate from the stem easily. This means that:
 - a) the stem becomes more difficult to cut
 - b) it is more likely to wrap in the combine
 - c) the straw is less likely to chop
 - d)
- Cut at the first opportunity and do not leave Linseed too long after you have finished your Wheat harvest. Whilst Linseed does not shed easily, leaving Linseed too long will result in the stems "retting" and becoming more difficult to cut and more likely to wrap.

- Combines will cut green Linseed straw provided the knife and fingers are in good condition.
 - Use seed maturity/moisture content as your combining guide.
 - Linseed cuts more easily nearer the ground (see Combine Operator Instructions).
 - Do not miss any opportunity to combine Linseed.
 - Your combine is the best judge of whether to harvest Linseed!
 - You will often find with Linseed that one day harvesting will not 'go', but the next day for no apparent reason you will fly through the crop.

Combine Settings

Outline instructions can be downloaded from:
www.premiumcrops.com/spring-linseed/useful-documents.html

Market Standards

Normal trading standards for Linseed are:

- Moisture - basis 9%, maximum 10 %
- Admixture - basis 2%, maximum 4%
- Mite free
- Clover weevil free



Linseed Straw Disposal

There are several options for Linseed straw disposal:

- Chopping
 - In some years Linseed straw will chop, but the combine chopper blades need to be in tip-top condition.
 - Problems can arise when the straw is weathered, which results in a fluffy material which can hinder subsequent min-till operations. Our advice is to disengage the chopper if you are not obtaining a 'clean chop'.
- Baling
 - Some growers use Linseed straw for sugar beet clamps or for bedding, and some contractors buy Linseed straw for power stations or as fuel for biomass powered grain driers.
- Burning
 - Burning is the simplest and most widely used method of straw disposal. Linseed straw is exempt from the burning ban and burns quickly without smoke or smuts. Either push the straw into a line across the centre of the field or round bale without strings.
 - Burning must be carried out in accordance with the appropriate legislation (The Crop Residues (Burning) Regulations 1993).

Drying and Storage

- Most Linseed will be harvested in the 8.5 – 12.0% moisture range – it needs to be 8.5% moisture if it is going to be stored for more than a few weeks.
- Damp Linseed will deteriorate rapidly above 11.0% moisture.
- If drying:
 - maximum temperature should not exceed 65°C.
 - maximum 1 metre depth for on-floor drying, because Linseed has a very high resistance to air-flow.
 - take care when storing/drying damp Linseed in a bin system. The airflow resistance can cause the drying front to stall, causing wet Linseed to 'set'. If possible rotate from one bin to another.
 - take down to 8% moisture, to allow for variations in meter readings.
- If harvesting in hot conditions, ensure that stored Linseed is cooled to <20°C (15°C or below ideally) when cooler weather conditions allow. This will help prevent mite infestations.
- In some years, clover weevils are harvested with the Linseed and may be a cause for rejection at end users. The weevil will dissipate over a few weeks. In extreme cases, drying and or cleaning may be required to remove them.
- Monitor stored linseed regularly for moisture and temperature increases, as well as mites. The easiest way to check for mites is to put a sample of your Linseed in a plastic bag, leave the bag on the window-sill and if any mites are present they will migrate to the top corners of the bag. The mites are small (<1 mm) and pinkish coloured. The only proven way to remove mites is to re-dry and clean the crop. End users are becoming more aware of mite contamination and may reject loads if found at the delivery point.
- If Linseed is dry and cool (<8.5% moisture and <15°C), it will store quite happily for months.
- Premium Crops can offer Linseed growers comprehensive and competitive contract cleaning, drying and storage services (costs enclosed).

Samples

Premium Crops will not move any crops without having received a sample—this is a contractual requirement.

- Once your crop has been dried please send us a sample (approximately 0.5 – 0.75 kg):
 - Put the sample in the polythene sample bag
 - Complete your trading name and estimated tonnage on the bag
 - Put into the pre-addressed survivor envelope provided and post it (please make sure you get the parcel weighed at the Post Office to ensure the correct postage is paid)

We will analyse the sample and send you an analysis report in due course. Please remember, the analysis result is only based on the sample we receive.

Winter Linseed - Harvest '17 News



“Winter linseed yielded 2.25t/ha in my first year growing the crop, combining was fine, I’m happy with my first attempt” - Tim P. Linseed grower in Norfolk

“We have a Lexion rotary combine and with no modifications harvested the winter linseed....it sailed through it” - Richard M. Linseed grower in Cambs.

“The Winter Linseed yielded over 3.0t/ha. My combine driver said it was easier to harvest than the oilseed rape” - Tim S. Linseed grower in Hants.

Contact us now for details of the latest Winter Linseed Contracts for harvest 2018



PREMIUMCROPS
LEADERS IN PREMIUM & SPECIALIST CROPS

Whitedale Farm | East Street | Hambledon | Hampshire | PO7 4RZ

Tel: 02392 632883

www.premiumcrops.com

info@premiumcrops.com

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All products used under EAMU are entirely at grower’s own risk.

Always read the label before using pesticides. Use pesticides safely.

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Whitedale Farm, East Street, Hambledon, Hampshire, PO7 4RZ

02392 632883 info@premiumcrops.com www.premiumcrops.com

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